Nearby, but on a slightly lower level, are the ruins of a tiny mill, its basement walls, water way and wheel still surviving. Seeking out the proverbial "oldest inhabitant" I found that, while he had never noticed the plants in question, he was possessed of a keen memory for the events of his earlier years. Welcoming a patient listener, he told me the story of the mill which for several generations prior to 1893 when it was burned, had contributed to the welfare of this isolated hamlet. For at least a part of its existence it had been devoted to the making of carpets, materials for which had been assembled from various sources.

While it is known that the plants have been growing there for at least a dozen years, the period is probably much longer. It is doubtless also safe to assume that the mill is responsible for their presence. And yet the wonder is that, having established themselves at all and having persisted so long, they have not increased their area far beyond the present limits. They have not even crossed to the opposite side of the narrow roadway where apparently conditions are identically the same. With the exception of a single plant found in an adjacent rather poor grass field, somewhat careful examination failed to reveal any extension of the limits first noted.

Boston, Massachusetts.

PTERIDOPHYTE NOTES FROM EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS.

Sidney F. Blake.

Woodsia obtusa (Spreng.) Torr. Winter occurrences of this plant are apparently rather rare at least in this region, so that it may be well to record four small specimens (no. 288, my herb.) of this species, of varying degrees of greenness, collected on a large rock in Canton on 27 March, 1909.

Dicksonia punctilobula (Michx.) Gray. On 21 March, 1909, I collected three small fronds (no. 285), which had endured the winter, on faces of cliffs in North Stoughton near the Avon boundary, possibly one or two of them really inside Avon limits. My search in the same locality on 30 January, 1910, failed to bring any of the plants

to light, but on 15 January of this year I found Dicksonia in comparative abundance both at this locality and at a new one clearly inside Stoughton territory. At the North Stoughton-Avon locality, where the fern was growing in protected nitches of the rocks on both the east and west sides of the railroad cut, I collected some sixteen fronds (no. 2067, my herb.), ranging in length from a minute and doubtless very young nearly perfectly green plant about 8 mm. long to one 12.5 cm. high with several pinnules or portions of pinnae brown and dead.

At the Stoughton locality the plants grew for some distance along the eastern side of the railroad, in a situation to receive the afternoon sun, chiefly in crevices on the western face of a stone wall bordering a slope descending toward the track. Here some thirty-four fronds (nos. 2065, 2066), more or less completely green, were collected, showing about the same variation in size as the other lot though averaging rather larger. In several cases, where the stipe was comparatively short in relation to the lamina (e. g., 2 cm. and 7.5 cm.) it was very thickly covered with the brownish hairs, as though imperfect development of the stipe had compressed them into smaller compass than normal. Dr. Robinson, who has examined all these specimens, agrees with me in thinking that the occurrence of so many fresh green fronds of small size (6 cm. long or less) can be explained only by supposing growth at favorable periods during the winter, which was exceptionally free from snow up to the date when the plants were collected.

So far as I have been able to ascertain, the Hay-scented Fern has not previously been credited with ability to withstand frosts and wintry weather. It is not mentioned in the late Mr. Davenport's notes on winter ferns, published in RHODORA in 1904.

Botrychium obliquum, var. *oneidense* (Gilbert) Waters. In RHODORA, xii, 80 (April, 1910), this grape fern was recorded from eastern Massachusetts on the basis of specimens collected in Canton, 8 March, 1909. Recent study of other specimens in my herbarium has convinced me that they represent the same form, and with this opinion Dr. Robinson, who has just examined them, agrees. The following representative sheets — no. 254, rich wet open meadow, 27 November, 1908; 273, very damp meadow, 13 February, 1909; 834, rich soil in meadow, 20 Sept., 1909 — from three different though adjacent spots in Stoughton, taken in connection with the Canton specimens, indicate that this variety is probably fairly well distributed in eastern

Massachusetts. Quite likely it is often taken for *B. ternatum*, var. *intermedium*, with which indeed, so far as can be judged from herbarium series, it seems to intergrade, while at the other end specimens with less and less obtuse pinnules taper off into *B. obliquum*. The examination of much material, both in the Gray Herbarium and my own collection, has practically convinced me that through this form *B. obliquum* and *B. ternatum*, var. *intermedium* inosculate.

Lycopodium clavatum, var. *megastachyon* Fernald & Bissell. On 24 November, 1910, in a grove of *Pinus rigida* in a pasture in Sharon, Massachusetts, I came upon a clubmoss which I recognized as this recently described variety, with which I had become familiar in the summer of 1909 in Hillsboro County, New Hampshire. Of the three sheets collected, one sheet (2026), having nine one-spiked peduncles to one two-spiked, must be called nearly typical *megastachyon*. The other two sheets, which together show seven unispicate and nine bispicate peduncles, are very good intermediates. In the original description this variety was recorded from the western part only of the state.

Stoughton, Massachusetts.

Helianthus subrhomboideus in New Hampshire.—On 11 September, 1908, I collected in fruit along the Grand Trunk Railway, about a mile northwest of Gorham, New Hampshire, an unfamiliar composite. A few days later, 23 September, 1908, Mr. A. H. Moore and I found the same species in the Grand Trunk freight-yards at Berlin, New Hampshire, about five miles from the former locality. On 18 July, 1910, the Gorham locality was revisited and the plants were found to have increased considerably in numbers and to be coming into flower. Specimens were sent to the Gray Herbarium where Professor Fernald kindly identified them as *Helianthus subrhomboideus* Rydb., a native of high plains of the Northwest and not hitherto reported from the range of Gray's Manual. The existence of two stations and the tendency of one of them to spread suggest that this species may be expected along the Grand Trunk in adjacent western Maine and northeastern Vermont and that it may become a permanent addition to our flora. Specimens from both stations are in the herbarium of the writer and one from the Gorham locality has been placed in the Gray Herbarium.— Arthur Stanley Pease, Urbana, Illinois.